

# HISTORY OF OKTOBERFEST

by Silvia Peña, S4ena

The Oktoberfest is a well-known celebration in Munich. Every year, on the last two weeks of September it will start and it will finish on the first week of October.

It all started in 1810, when Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese decided to marry. They married on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Prince Ludwig liked the Ancient Greeks so he wanted a celebration similar as the Olympics games. He decided he would have a horse racing. The horse racing happened on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. The people of Munich liked it so much, that Prince Ludwig decided it would repeat each year. The celebration was called by the Munich people "Wiesn".

In 1910, because the Wiesn was 100 years old, they bought 12,000,000 liters of beer. Already the tents could have 12,000 people. Because of the First World War, the Wiesn was cancelled. So, after it they did a small autumn fest where there was no horse racing. In Second World War, the now called Herbstfest, was cancelled again. In exception of the anniversary of 150 and 200 in 1960 and 2010 there have not been anymore horse racings.



# TODAY'S OKTOBERFEST

by Konstantina Keramida, S4ena



Oktoberfest is the world's largest fair held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. It is a 16-day festival running from late September to the first weekend in October with more than 6 million people from around the world attending the event every year. To the locals, it is not called Oktoberfest, but "die Wies'n", after the colloquial name of the fairgrounds (Theresienwiese) themselves. The Oktoberfest is an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since 1810. Other cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations, modeled after the original Munich event.

The Munich Oktoberfest originally took place during the sixteen days up to, and including, the first Sunday in October. In 1994, the schedule was modified in response to German reunification so that if the first Sunday in October falls on the 1st or 2nd, then the festival would go on until October 3 (German Unity Day). Thus, the festival is now 17 days when the first Sunday is October 2 and 18 days when it is October 1. In 2010, the festival lasted until the first Monday in October, to mark the anniversary of the event. The festival is held in an area named the Theresienwiese (field, or meadow, of Therese), often called Wiesn for short, located near Munich's center.



Large quantities of Oktoberfest Beer are consumed, with almost 7 million liters served during the 16 day festival in 2007. Visitors may also enjoy a wide variety of traditional food such as Hendl (chicken), Schweinebraten (roast pork), Schweinshaxe (grilled ham hock), Steckerlfisch (grilled fish on a stick), Würstl (sausages) along with Brezeln (pretzel), Knödel (potato or bread dumplings), Käsespätzle (cheese noodles), Reiberdatschi (potato pancakes), Sauerkraut or Rotkohl/Blaukraut (red cabbage) along with such Bavarian delicacies as Obatzda (a spiced cheese-butter spread) and Weisswurst (a white sausage).

